

**INNOVATE. EDUCATE. ELEVATE.**

**2025 SWANA FL Winter Conference**  
**February 23-25 | Gainesville**

**Hilton University of Florida Conference Center**



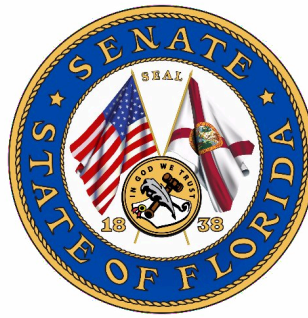
# **2025 Legislative Preview**

**Willie Puz**

SWANA FL Legislative Committee Chair  
Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

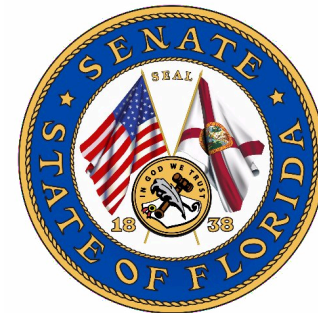
# Florida Governor





# Florida Senate

- 40 members
  - Republicans - 28
    - Still have a supermajority
    - D19 will be vacant to run for Congress (March 31)
  - Democrats - 11 (with the passing of Senator Geraldine Thompson)
- Elected for four (4) years
- Term limited to eight (8) years
- Can extend to ten (10) years due to reapportionment years
- Can file as many bills as they want



# Senate Leadership Offices



Senate President  
Ben Albritton (R)  
District 27  
Charlotte, DeSoto,  
Hardee counties  
and parts of Lee,  
Polk counties



Senate President  
pro tempore  
Jason Brodeur (R)  
District 10  
Parts of Seminole  
and Orange  
counties



Majority Leader  
Jim Boyd (R)  
District 20  
Parts of  
Hillsborough and  
Manatee counties



Minority Leader  
Jason Pizzo (D)  
District 37  
Parts of Broward  
and Miami-Dade  
counties

## Priorities

- Tax cuts<sup>(1)</sup>
- Deregulation<sup>(1)</sup>
- Reforms “to the legal climate and insurance industry<sup>(1)</sup>”
  - Security & Threat Assessment Committee

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/local/state/2024/11/19/go-time-legislature-descends-on-tallahassee-for-organization-session/76330135007/>



# Florida House of Representatives

- 120 members
  - Republicans - 86
    - With one resignation in D3 (Congressional seat)
    - Two switched party affiliations from D to R
      - <https://floridapolitics.com/archives/713303-hillary-cassel-becomes-second-house-democrat-to-swap-parties-ahead-of-2025-session-2/>
      - <https://floridapolitics.com/archives/713358-donald-trump-hails-hillary-cassel/>
    - Still have a supermajority
  - Democrats - 33
- Elected for two (2) year terms
- Term limited to eight (8) years
- Limited to filing 7 bills
  - Resolutions count as a bill
  - Can co-sponsor as many as they wish
- New this year from Speaker Perez
  - For a committee chair to consider hearing a bill, Reps will be required to ask the chair in writing to place their bill on the agenda
    - Include information on the anticipated Senate companion
    - Members will be expected to work their bills and fully engage not only with the chairs but with the members of the committee
  - Created a new process for bills to be analyzed by staff members, which he said is aimed at improving “readability, usefulness, and interactivity.”
    - <https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2024/11/27/newly-proposed-florida-laws-already-listed-for-2025-legislative-session>



# House Leadership Offices



Speaker of the House  
Danny Perez (R)  
District 116  
Part of Miami-Dade County



House Speaker pro tempore  
Wyman Duggan (R)  
District 12  
Part of Duval County



House Majority Leader  
Tyler Sirois (R)  
District 31  
Part of Brevard County



House Minority Leader  
Fentrice Driskell (D)  
District 67  
Part of Hillsborough County

## Priorities

- Curb the size of the state budget<sup>(1)</sup>
  - Scrapping the long-standing House Appropriations Committee and subcommittees and replacing them with the Budget Committee and subcommittees
  - Carries a deeper philosophical point <sup>(2)</sup>
    - Member projects in the House budget have grown from \$174 million in 2019 to \$1.3 billion in 2024, which is a 645% increase. As elected officials, we should not be asking, 'How much of the public's money can we spend?'
- Add two new House legislative panels for IT spending <sup>(1)</sup>
  - Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee
  - Security & Threat Assessment Committee
- Education will have a Pre K-20 jurisdiction
  - Education & Employment Committee <sup>(2)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/11/07/incoming-legislative-leaders-release-details-of-how-things-will-run-the-next-two-years/>

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://www.wfln.org/government-politics/2024-11-11/incoming-florida-house-speaker-scolds-legislators-for-spending-taxpayer-funds-excessively>



# Budget information

- Has been titled the Focus on Fiscal Responsibility budget
  - Recommended \$115.6B; more than \$3B lower than current year
    - Reduce the size of state government (by 741 positions) and realign resources to focus on fiscal responsibility
    - \$14.6B in total reserves; slightly lower than last year
    - \$4.2B in unallocated General Revenue
    - \$16.1B for K-12 schools
      - \$1.5B for salary increases for eligible teachers and other instructional personnel
    - \$2.2B in Tax relief programs (Back to School, Disaster Preparedness; Freedom Summer; Tool Time; Second Amendment; repeal the state's Business Rent Tax)
    - \$803M for Everglades Restoration
    - \$118.3M for pay increases for law enforcement and firefighters
    - \$830M to the debt reduction program



# Other happenings

- Special Session 1 - 2025A
  - Called by Gov Desantis
    - Immigration
    - Condominium regulations
    - Disaster relief for agriculture
    - My Safe Florida Home program
      - 11 bills filed and died

- Special Session 2 - 2025B
  - Legislative leaders chose to convene their own Special Session
    - Immigration
      - 1 bill passed - Tackling and Reforming Unlawful Migration Policy Act

- Special Session 3
  - Legislative leaders called for this and conferred with the Governor on a common approach
    - Immigration
      - 3 bills filed and passed
        - 2 immigration bills passed and signed into law
        - 1 Homeland Security resolution passed and filed with Secretary of State

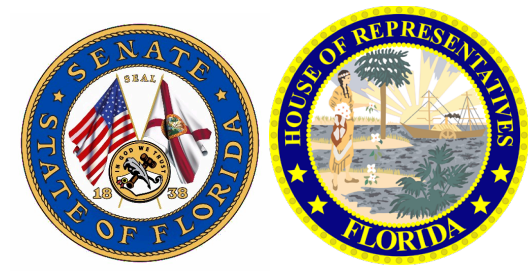


# Bills filed so far



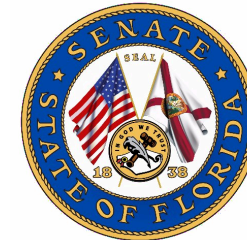
- Senate - 517
- House - 545
- History has shown me that on average only about 10% of filed bills pass





# Operations bills

- **HB 189 Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan** (No companion)
- **SB 200 / HB 295 Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan**
  
- **Bill Summary**
  - **HB 189**
    - Sets a state recycling goal path but also gives businesses a discount on their fees or permits by how much they recycle
      - Withdrawn
  - **SB 200/HB 295**
    - This is the bill we were expecting and is inline with what has been filed in the past
      - SB 200 passed its first committee stop
      - HB 295 was referred to committees
  
- Last year the House version passed the House floor but the Senate version was not heard in its second committee.



# Operations bills

- **SB 1008 Waste Incineration** (No companion at this time)
  - Just filed yesterday (2/24)
- **Bill Summary**
  - Prohibits a local government or the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a construction permit for an ash-producing incinerator or for a waste-to-energy facility if the proposed location of such facility is sited within a one-half-mile radius of any residential property, commercial property, or school.



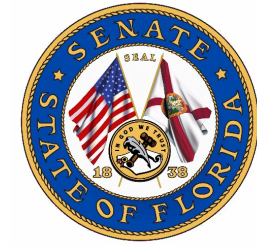
# Operations bills

- **SB 1002 Utility Service Restrictions** (No companion at this time)
  - Just filed yesterday (2/24)
- **Bill Summary**
  - Includes boards, agencies, commissions, and authorities of counties, municipal corporations, or other political subdivisions (including special districts and authorities) of the state with the entities preempted from taking certain actions that restrict, prohibit, or have the effect of restricting or prohibiting the types or fuel sources of energy produced, used, delivered, converted, or supplied by certain entities to serve customers
  - Voids existing specified documents and policies from governmental entities that are preempted by the act, etc.



# Operations bills

- **SB 946 Waste Facilities** (No companion at this time)
  - Not referred to committees as of yet
- **Bill Summary**
  - Prohibits a local governmental entity from applying for a permit for or approving the permitting of certain waste facilities within a specified distance of the Everglades Protection Area, the Everglades Construction Project, or any water storage or conveyance structure constructed pursuant to specified provisions, etc.
- Similar bills were filed last year. The Senate passed the Senate floor; the House version died in its second committee.



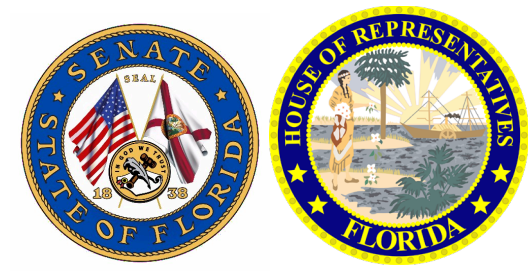
# Operations bills

- **SB 962 Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program** (No companion at this time)
  - Not referred to committees as of yet
- **Bill Summary**
  - Revises which state agency is responsible for administering the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program (DACS -> FDEP)
  - Revises the requirements necessary for municipal solid waste-to-energy facilities to be eligible to receive financial assistance and incentive grant funding, etc.
    - Measure the air quality and particulate matter in all environmental justice zones located within 25 miles of the facility.
    - An applicant is not eligible for grant funding under this program if the results of the measurements do not meet the minimum standards for air quality and particulate matter set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- Similar bills were filed last year. Both died committees.



# Operations bills

- **SB 800 Requirements for Battery Manufacturers** (No companion bill as of yet)
  - Recently filed and not referred to committees as of yet
- **Bill Summary**
  - Medium-format (4.4 pounds to 25 pounds), portable, rechargeable (11 pounds to 25 pounds), lithium or primary (not capable of being recharged and is less than less 4.4 pounds) batteries cannot be sold unless
    - Batteries can be easily removed by consumer
    - Has a battery pack separate from the product
  - Heard there is an amendment coming on this one



# Operations bills

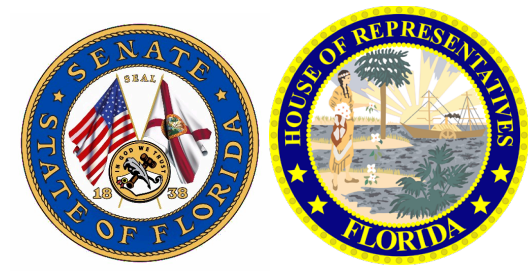
- **HB 291 / SB 410 Personal Mobility Device Battery Safety Standard** (Identical)
  - Both referred to committees
- **Bill Summary**
  - Creates the “Florida E-Scooter and E-Bike Battery Safety Act”
  - Defines the term “personal mobility device”
  - Requires certain batteries be certified as meeting a specified ingress protection standard, being submerged up to 1 meter
  - A noncertified battery may not be sold, shipped, operated or charged in Florida





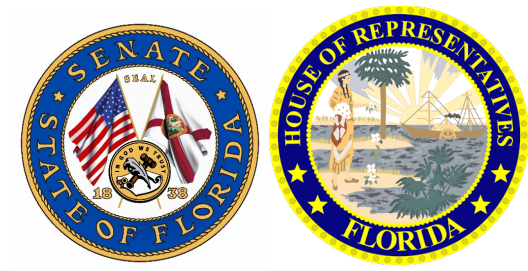
# Operations bills

- **HB 621 State Renewable Energy Goals** (No companion at this time)
  - Not referred to committees as of yet
- **Bill Summary**
  - Amends the definition of biomass to include “...separated municipal food, yard, or solid waste, or municipal liquid waste treatment operations, ~~and landfill gas~~.”
  - Sets 2050 as the date where 100% of electricity used in the state is generated from 100% renewable energy.
  - And by 2051, the state will have net zero carbon emissions statewide.
- Similar bills have been filed since 2021. Both died committees each year.



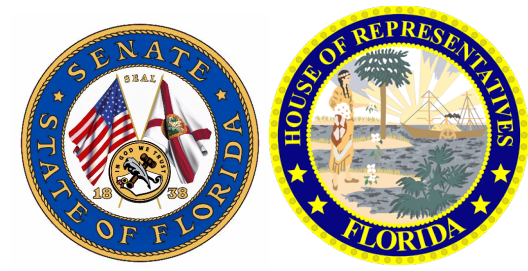
# Operations bills

- **HB 565 Regulation of Auxiliary Containers** (No companion at this time)
  - Referred to committees
- **SB 836 / HB 6023 Auxiliary Containers, Wrappings and Disposable Plastic Bags** (Identical)
  - Both recently filed and not referred to committees as of yet
- **Bill Summary**
  - **HB 565**
    - Further defines auxiliary containers to include single-use bag, cup, bottle, can or other packaging made of specific materials
    - Preempts the regulation of auxiliary containers to the state
  - **SB 836 / HB 6023**
    - Removes the state preemption of auxiliary containers, wraps and disposable plastic bags
- Similar bills were filed since last year. Both passed their first committees and died in the next.



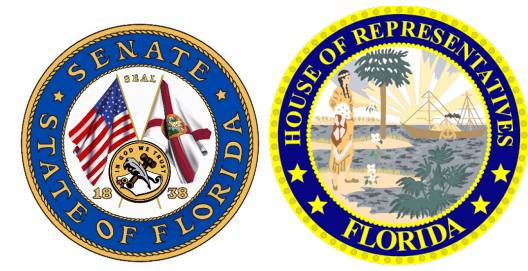
# Operations bills

- **HB 211 / SB 374 Farm Products** (Identical)
  - Both referred to committees
- **Bill Summary**
  - Further defines “farm product” to be plants and plant products whether edible or not
  - A governmental entity may not limit an activity of a bona fide farm operation including the collection, storage, processing and distribution of farm products
- Something similar was filed in 2023 that included yard waste transported to a farm. The Senate Bill passed its first committee; the House Bill made it to the House calendar.



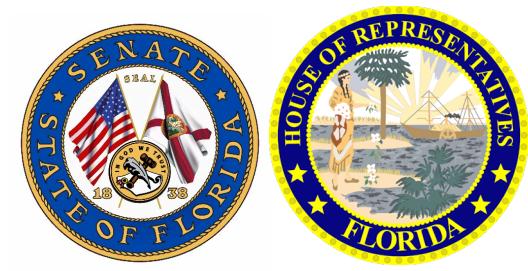
# Operations bills

- **HB 283 / SB 668 Storage and Disposal of Prescription Drugs and Sharps** (Similar)
  - HB was referred to committees
  - SB has not been referred to committees at this time
- **Bill Summary**
  - Requires the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a study of the safe collection and proper disposal of sharps.
  - Addresses how certain schedule drugs are collected and stored for destruction
- The Senate proposed a similar bill last year and it was not heard in committee.



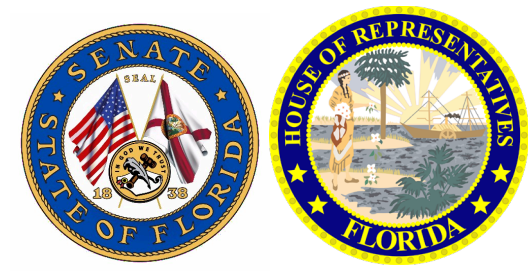
# Operations bills

- **HB 733 / SB 736 Brownfields** (Similar)
  - Neither has been referred to committees
- **Bill Summary**
  - Deletes a provision requiring certain property owners to provide information regarding institutional controls to the local government for mapping purposes
  - Revises the conditions under which an applicant that has rehabilitated a contaminated site may submit and claim certain tax credits
  - Deletes the definition of the term “monetary compensation”
  - Revises the date by which the Department of Environmental Protection must issue annual site rehabilitation tax credit certificate awards
  - Prohibiting the department or a delegated local pollution control program from denying a specified status or refusing to issue a specified order for certain brownfield sites that are only a portion of larger contaminated sites, etc.
    - There are references to “landfill” and “solid waste removal” in these bills



# Operations bills

- **HB 35 / SB 510 Heat Illness Prevention** (Similar)
    - HB 35 has been referred to committees
    - SB 510 has not, at this time
  - **Bill Summary**
    - Requires certain employers to implement an outdoor heat exposure safety program that has been approved by specified departments
    - Provides responsibilities for certain employers and employees
    - Requires specified annual training on heat illness and providing requirements for such training, etc.
- Similar bills have been proposed as far back as 2022.



# Operations bills

- **HB 83 / SB 142 Protections for Public Employees who use Medical Marijuana as Qualified Patients** (Identical)
    - Both have been referred to committees
  - **Bill Summary**
    - Prohibits a public employer from taking adverse personnel action against an employee or a job applicant for his or her use of medical marijuana if the employee or job applicant is a qualified patient
    - Requires a public employer to provide written notice of an employee's or a job applicant's right to explain or contest a positive marijuana test result within a specified timeframe
    - Provides a cause of action and damages, etc.
- Similar bills were proposed last year but did not move.



# Operations bills

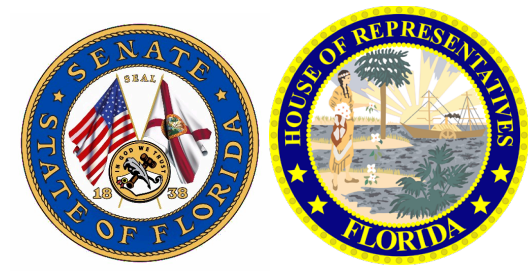
- **HB 341 Identification Cards for Public Works Employees** (No companion at this time)
  - Has been referred to committees
- **Bill Summary**
  - Requires OPPAGA (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability) to produce report on how state could provide an ID card for public works employees identifying them as first responders.





# Administrative bills

- **SB 132 Legal Tender** (No companion at this time)
- **Bill Summary**
  - Specifying that specie legal tender (gold or silver coins) and electronic currency are legal tender
  - Specifying that certain transactions of specie do not give rise to tax liability
  - Prohibiting persons from compelling others to tender or accept specie as legal tender
  - Authorizing governmental entities to recognize specie legal tender for certain payments, etc.
    - Coins, rounds, bars, ingots and any other product stamped or imprinted with the weight and purity of the precious metal that it contains



# Administrative bills

- **HB 671 / SB 798 Electronic Payment of Public Records Fees** (Identical)
  - Both have not been referred to committee at this time
- **Bill Summary**
  - Requiring an agency subject to ch. 119, F.S., to provide an electronic option for payment of fees associated with a public records request, etc.



# Administrative bills

- **HB 301 Suits Against the Government** (No companion at this time)
- **Bill Summary**
  - Increases claims limits from
    - \$200,000 to \$1M per person
    - \$300,000 to \$3M per incident
      - Passed its first committee

# How to research or follow bills

- Florida House
  - [MyFloridaHouse.gov](http://MyFloridaHouse.gov); “Bill” at top of page / “Tracking” tab
- Florida Senate
  - [FLSenate.gov](http://FLSenate.gov); “Go to Bill” at top of page / “Tracker” tab
- Watch Committee Meetings live on The Florida Channel
  - [TheFloridaChannel.org](http://TheFloridaChannel.org)
- Federal bills
  - [GovTrack.us](http://GovTrack.us)
  - [Legiscan.com](http://Legiscan.com)

# How to research or follow bills

- Florida League of Cities
  - [FloridaLeagueOfCities.com](http://FloridaLeagueOfCities.com); “Advocacy”
- Florida Association of Counties
  - [fl-counties.com](http://fl-counties.com); “Advocacy”
- Watch Committee Meetings live on The Florida Channel
  - [TheFloridaChannel.org](http://TheFloridaChannel.org)

# How to research or follow bills

- National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA)
  - [WasteRecycling.org](http://WasteRecycling.org); “Advocacy”
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
  - [SWANA.org](http://SWANA.org); “Advocacy” (Member)
- Watch Committee Meetings live on The Florida Channel
  - [TheFloridaChannel.org](http://TheFloridaChannel.org)

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